

ROCHESTER 4, N. Y.

July 17, 1953

Mr. Eugene M. Zuckert
Vice Chairman
Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Zuckert:

You will recall that on March 12 and again on April 30, 1952, I wrote to you outlining our experience with the problem of preventing radioactive contamination of our sensitized goods and the expenses and losses which we had incurred as a result of the atomic energy tests conducted in this country by the Atomic Energy Commission. Knowing of your sincere interest in this problem, it occurs to me that now that the most recent series of atomic energy tests has been completed you would be interested in having an up-to-date statement from us concerning the effects of these tests on our photographic film and paper business, together with the additional expenses and losses which we have incurred since I last wrote you.

At the outset it should be said that the advance notice of tests which we have received from the Atomic Energy Commission has been helpful in enabling us to plan production runs of certain materials in advance where this is possible and to accumulate inventories of such materials for use during the period of a potential threat of contamination. The sooner we know of impending tests, of course, the better able we are to provide for such inventories without overtime work.

The daily bulletins we have had from the Commission through the National Association of Photographic Manufacturers as to the position and direction of travel of the radioactive clouds during and following the tests have also been useful to us. They have enabled us to prepare for increasing our monitoring and testing at the threatened areas. Fortunately, during the last series of tests the Rochester area was by-passed by the radioactive clouds and we did not experience any heavy fall-out of fissionable material at our Kodak Park plant where our photographic film and paper and our interleaving paper for these products are manufactured. Accordingly, we did not have any serious threat of contamination of these products at our Rochester plant.

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The radioactive clouds from the last series of tests, however, did affect our operations at the Kingsport, Tennessee, plant of our Tennessee Eastman Company division. At that plant we make all of the cellulose acetate which is used in the manufacture of our film at Rochester, and in the manufacture of our filament yarn and fiber at Kingsport. We have found some radioactive specks in our cellulose acetate film base which, in view of the absence of any serious fall-out in the Rochester area, leads us to conclude that the contamination was in the cellulose acetate itself. This contamination could occur in the cotton linters or wood pulp from which we make cellulose acetate at our plant at Kingsport; or during the actual manufacture of the cellulose acetate at Kingsport, probably during the drying operation; or during some of our operations in the manufacture of the film base itself in our Kodak Park plant at Rochester (although in this instance we believe this possibility was not present). We, of course, have taken many precautions to minimize this danger at our plants both in Kingsport and in Rochester, and also at the plants of our suppliers.

Each of our suppliers of wood pulp, at our request, takes continuous air samples through filter paper and daily samples of the water used in his operation. These filter papers and samples of water are sent to Rochester each day; and if they indicate that the air or water is contaminated, the wood pulp produced during the time of the contamination is set apart and not used to make film base. We can use it, however, for making acetate to be used for our yarn and fiber production.

We have equipped our suppliers of cotton linters with monitors by which samples of the air and water are taken every two hours and whenever the monitors indicate excessive radioactivity, our suppliers have been instructed to shut down on any production intended for our use. A shut-down is necessary because we use cotton linters to make cellulose acetate for film base and not for the manufacture of yarn or fiber and could not divert possibly contaminated linters for the latter purpose.

Our Kingsport plant is also equipped for two-hour monitoring. During the past series of tests, it was necessary to close the portion of this plant devoted to the manufacture of film-base acetate six times, for a total of approximately 300 hours, because of the presence of excessive radioactivity.

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At our Kodak Park plant in Rochester we have elaborate filtering systems for both air and water, and we also engage in continuous monitoring with readings taken every two hours.

Our x-ray film, as you know, is highly sensitive to radioactivity. We use a stiffener board in packing this film to protect it in the package and must guard against contamination of the board because contaminated board would damage the film. We have two sources of supply for this stiffener board, one in Wisconsin, and one in New York. Although both of these mills have water-treating plants, the treatment at the New York mill has not worked very satisfactorily. Nevertheless, we have been able to continue to use board from this mill by watching the situation closely and attempting to obtain our supplies of stiffener board from this mill only during periods when the river water which they use is not contaminated, and from the Wisconsin mill when there might be some danger that the board from the New York mill might be contaminated. In this connection, we have made full use of the advice we have received from the Atomic Energy Commission as to the dates of future tests, because it is necessary for us to schedule the production runs from both of these mills as far ahead as possible.

The production of pulp which we use to make photographic paper and interleaving paper for x-ray films is also scheduled a year in advance. By continuous attention to the presence or absence of contaminated air and water at the time production runs are scheduled, we believe that we have successfully avoided contamination of these papers.

During the last series of atomic energy tests, the daily bulletins from the Commission were also helpful in enabling us to schedule runs of wood pulp when the bulletins showed that the atomic cloud was not traveling over or toward parts of the country where one of our pulp suppliers was located.

In my letter to you of March 12, 1952, I reported that during the year 1951 our total extra expense, including labor and materials for tests and investigations to disclose and prevent contamination of our products, together with the total product loss, had amounted to \$104,919. The figures which we have assembled for the year 1952 show additional expenses and losses of \$137,766. For the current

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year to June 14, they have amounted to \$14,022, or a total of \$171,782 since I last reported to you. Thus our total expenses and losses since the beginning of 1951 resulting from the atomic energy tests have amounted to \$276,701. These figures do not include our Kingsport plant since we kept no record of the costs there. We believe, however, that they would not nearly approach the figures shown above.

As I told you in my earlier letter, you may be assured that we shall continue to do everything that we reasonably can to keep our losses and expense at a minimum and that we are very appreciative of the helpful cooperation of the Commission and its staff in connection with our problem.

Yours very truly,

AL Thompson

President